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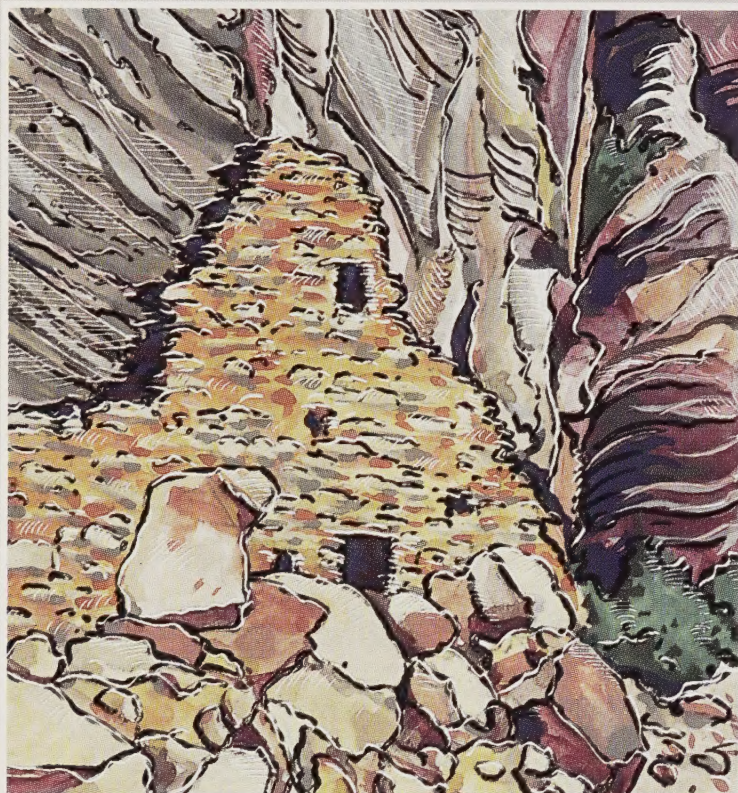
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# MOMENTS IN TIME

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Mary Beath

Palatki Ruin, Coconino National Forest

After his expedition to Arizona in 1895, archaeologist Jesse Walter Fewkes reported:

*The country between the Verde valley, north of Oak creek, and Flagstaff, Arizona is wild and mountainous . . . From its highest point the traveler can see stretching far to the west an area seldom designated on maps, but locally known, from the color of its cliffs, as the Red Rock country. Into that unexplored region permit me to be your guide on an archaeological reconnaissance, for although now uninhabited it was once the site of a considerable population which has left ruins of uncommon size in its rugged canyons . . . The first ruin of which I will speak is Palatki . . .*







# People and the Land In the Southwest

*We have lived upon this land from days  
beyond history's records, far past any living  
memory, deep into the time of legend.*

—A Taos Pueblo Man

Over a hundred years have passed since archaeologist Jesse Walter Fewkes gazed with wonder on the cliff dwellings of Palatki. To Fewkes and other explorers in the late 1800s, each new canyon signaled the beginning of a journey back in time.

Today, most of the canyons and mesas in the Southwest have been explored—but the sense of awe remains. Here dry conditions have preserved the record of the past more strikingly than in any other part of the nation. The outline of countless chapters in human history is firmly etched on the landscape. Each cliff dwelling, rock art site, ghost town, and mining camp tells the story of a constantly changing relationship between people and the land.



Like many prehistoric dwellings in the Southwest, Palatki was built under a natural sandstone overhang. The alcove is situated so the winter sun will warm it, but during the summer it stays cool in the shade for much of the day.



Yucca fibers  
were once used to  
weave sandals like this one.

## The Human Factor

For at least 15,000 years humans have been part of natural ecosystems in North America. The interaction has always been a two-way street: people are affected by their surroundings, and in turn they make changes in the places they live. In the Southwest, distinctive landforms, a climate of extremes, scarce water, and diverse plants and animals have all helped shape past cultures. The land offered both challenges and possibilities.

As people went about their daily lives, they also transformed the natural world around them. Recent changes are most familiar to us: the introduction of new plants and animals by Europeans, the building of roads and cities, grazing, logging, and mechanized agriculture. But on a smaller scale, similar changes occurred throughout prehistory. Early inhabitants cleared land for villages and fields, harvested fuelwood, introduced new plants, and hunted wildlife. They also built terraces for farming and check dams in drainages to catch and hold precious water.

## Timescapes

During many thousands of years natural processes such as volcanic eruptions and climate shifts have changed the land in the Southwest; but in addition, interactions between humans and the land have helped create the landscapes we know today. Each pueblo ruin or historic homestead chronicles a moment in ecological time. When you visit a site, remember that it is not only a surviving trace of a past people, but also of a past landscape. Ask yourself, "What was the land like then? How did people from that time live in that environment? And how did people and the environment change each other?" By reflecting on these questions we can begin to deepen our understanding of contemporary landscapes and cultures.

The map in the center of this brochure shows some prehistoric and historic sites you can visit on National Forest lands in Arizona and New Mexico. With additional information at each of these locations, the feel of the land around you, and your imagination, you may well be able to transport yourself into a different moment in time.









## Moments in Time . . .

### Apache-Sitgreaves NFs 520-333-4301

- "Journey Through Time" Auto Tour (Mogollon Rim country)
- Blue Crossing Rock Art (Petroglyphs, AD 1000-1200)
- PS Knoll Fire Lookout (1939)

### Carson NF 505-758-6200

- The Ring Place (Cattle ranch from the turn-of-the-century)
- Pot Creek Cultural Site (Anasazi reconstruction, AD 1190-1250)
- Gateway to the Past/Ghost Ranch Living Museum (Exhibits)
- Pioneer Canyon (Trail with rem-

- nants of early 1900s gold mining)
- Placer Creek (Mining History Trail, late 1800s-early 1900s)

### Cibola NF 505-761-4650

- Tijierras Pueblo (Ruins, AD 1300-1425)
- Kiwanis Cabin (Stone shelter built by CCC in 1936 on Sandia Crest)
- Zuni Mountain Historic Auto Tour (Railroad logging, 1920s)
- Santa Fe Trail (Cimarron Cut Off, dates from 1822)
- Sandia Cave ("Sandia Man" site)

### Coconino NF 520-527-3600

- Palatki (Sinagua cliff dwellings,

- AD 1150-1300; rock art, 5,000 years)
- Elden Pueblo (Sinagua, AD 1150-1275; inhabited during Sunset Crater eruptions)
- V Bar V Rock Art (AD 1150-1400)

### Coronado NF 520-670-4552

- Kentucky Camp (1904 mining camp)
- Camp Rucker (Cavalry outpost, 1878-1886; later used as a ranch)
- Council Rocks (Pictographs on large boulders, Archaic to Apache)
- Dragoon Springs (Overland-Butterfield Stage Stop, built 1858)
- The Reef Townsite (Turn-of-the-century mining, Carr Reef)
- Romero Ruin (Hohokam village compound, AD 550-1350)
- Lemmon Rock Fire Lookout (1928)

### Gila NF 505-388-8201

- Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument (Mogollon, AD 1200s)
- Lake Roberts Vista Site (Mogollon and Mimbres, AD 200-1150)
- The Catwalk (Follows 1893 water pipeline, Whitewater Canyon)

### Kaibab NF 520-635-8200

- Route 66 Auto & Bicycle Tours (Stretches of Route 66 dating to the 1920s and 1930s)
- Keyhole Sink (Petroglyphs, at least a thousand years old)
- Snake Gulch (2,000 years of rock art, many pictograph styles)
- Clover Ruin (Cohonina farmstead reconstruction, AD 875-1000)
- Hull Cabin (Log cabin and barn

- built in 1890)

- Laws Spring (Favored rest stop for centuries; historic inscriptions)
- Jacob Lake Ranger Station (1910) and Fire Lookout (1934)

### Lincoln NF 505-434-7200

- Cloudcroft Trestle (Railroad logging from the turn-of-the-century)
- Monjeau Fire Lookout (Built by CCC in 1940, stone tower)
- Sitting Bull Falls (CCC-built picnic shelters and dam)

### Prescott NF 520-771-4700

- Lynx Creek Ruin (Small pueblo, AD 1200s)
- Palace Station (Stage stop, Phoenix to Prescott route, built in 1875)

### Santa Fe NF 505-438-7840

- Poshuouinge (Remains of large adobe pueblo, AD 1400s)
- Tsi-p'in-owinge' (Mesa-top pueblo site, AD 1275-1450)
- Sayshukwa (Late pueblo site in Jemez Mountains, AD 1350-1700)
- Nogales Cliff House (Gallina Culture, AD 1050-1300)
- Rattlesnake Ridge (Gallina Culture, AD 1050-1300)

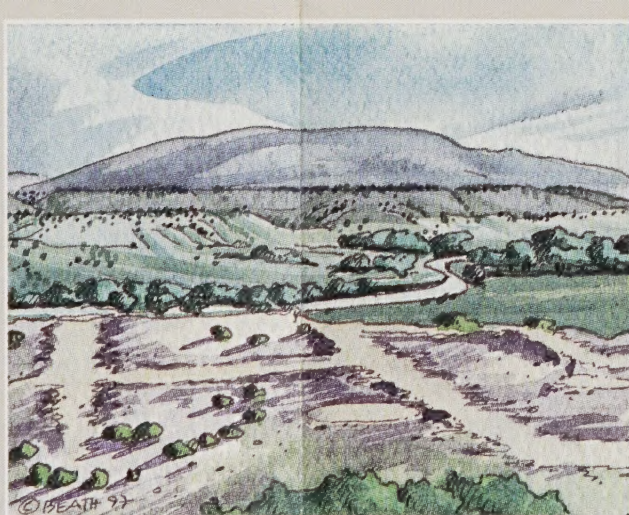
### Tonto NF 602-225-5200

- Sears-Kay Ruin (Hilltop Hohokam settlement, AD 1050-1200)
- Shoofly Village (Ruins of village occupied AD 1000-1250)
- Apache Trail (Follows prehistoric and historic trail along Salt River)





Keyhole Sink, Kaibab National Forest



Poshouinge, Santa Fe National Forest



Sears-Kay Ruin, Tonto National Forest

## Living with the Land

For thousands of years, ancient hunters moved through the land, leaving behind few traces. But at Keyhole Sink, a natural game trap, hunters documented their presence with images on the rocks.

Although the Chama River valley had been sparsely populated for centuries, in the AD 1400s many large pueblos flourished. On benches above the river, terraced fields and grid gardens supported more people than live in the area today. Just as suddenly, the valley was abandoned.

Nine hundred years ago, in the shimmering heat of the Phoenix basin, some Hohokam farmers left their large towns and irrigated fields to build small, fortified settlements in the foothills. Archaeologists believe growing competition for land and other resources prompted their move.





Ring Place, Carson National Forest

The late 1800s were exciting times near Cimarron. Cattle ranches like Timothy Ring's place, log trains, and mill towns operated at full tilt in the Valle Vidal. Today the silent valley appears untouched to passers-by; but the Ring Place holds memories of earlier times.



Cloudcroft Trestle, Lincoln National Forest

Built at the turn of the century to open the Sacramento Mountains for logging, the A&SM Railway wound up steep mountain slopes for 32 miles, supported by 58 timber trestles. "...[E]ngines ran wild down steep grades, jumped the tracks and plunged into the canyons along the route."



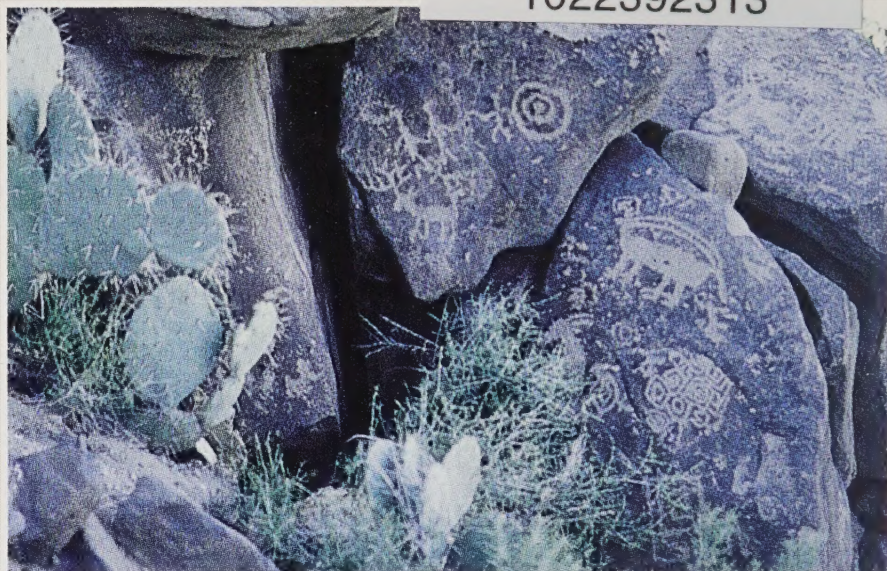
Kentucky Camp, Coronado National Forest

In the 1870s, the Santa Rita Mountains rang with the clamour of hundreds of miners, thirsty for gold! When deposits played out, a California engineer dreamed of channeling spring runoff into a large reservoir for a hydraulic mining operation. But Kentucky Camp lasted a scant two years.





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*... the long dead artists and hunters  
confront us across the centuries  
with the poignant sign of their humanity.  
I was here, says the artist.  
We were here, say the hunters.*

—Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*, 1971

Someone once said that a country without ruins is a country without memories. Sites may also hold special meaning for native peoples and nearby communities. Admire these sites, learn from them, but leave everything where it is. To do otherwise is not only disrespectful, it is also against the law.

The statement from a Taos Pueblo man is quoted by Alfonso Ortiz in Henry, Jeanette, et. al., eds. *Indian Voices: The First Convocation of American Indian Scholars*. San Francisco: The Indian Historian Press, 1970. This and the Edward Abbey quote are used by permission.

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